IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims are listed below for the convenience of the Examiner. No changes have been made. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (previously presented) An information extraction device for extracting information corresponding to a request from a database, comprising:

a function called up from application software, for converting a plurality of kinds of requests into requests in an XML format by referring to a database and returning results of the requests from the database.

2. (original) The information extraction device according to claim 1, wherein a list of requests related to the generated requests in an XML format that can be arbitrarily selected and set, is linked and provided.

3. (original) The information extraction device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a list of requests related to information designated in the generated requests in an XML format that can be arbitrarily selected and set, is linked and provided.

4. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for controlling a server to perform a process comprising:

extracting information corresponding to a request from a database as an information extraction device;

converting a plurality of kinds of requests into requests in an XML format by referring to a database as a function called up from application software; and

returning the information extracted from the database by the request.

5. (previously presented) A method for extracting information from a database in response to a request for the information, comprising:

converting at least one of a plurality of kinds of requests into an extensible markup language format by referring to the database.

6. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 5,

wherein said converting is performed in a function called up from application software, and

wherein said method further comprises returning results in the extensible markup language format from the function to the application software.

7. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the application software and the function are executed by a server having access to the database.

8. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the database stores XML tags in tables, including at least one table indicating at least one relationship between data in independent tables by defining at least one relationship between the XML tags in the independent tables.